

HOUSE BILL 3811

By Fitzhugh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to access to educational technology for  
students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding  
the following as a new, appropriately designated part:

49-6-1801.

(a) The department of education shall create an access to educational  
technology program that ensures a meaningful level of access to technology for all  
seventh and eighth grade students.

(b) The access to educational technology program shall include, but not be  
limited to, providing each student entering the seventh grade in a participating LEA with  
a laptop computer. The students shall take possession of the laptop computers, but the  
laptop computers shall remain the property of the LEA. Upon completion of the seventh  
grade, students shall retain the laptop computers that were previously issued for use  
during the eighth grade. Upon completion of the eighth grade, students shall return the  
laptop computers to the LEA.

(c) All LEAs shall be eligible to participate in the access to educational  
technology program by submitting a letter of intent indicating the LEA's willingness to the  
commissioner.

(d) The department is authorized to contract with a private company to provide  
the laptop computers, necessary software appropriate to grade level, teacher training  
and professional development, and technical support as needed.

49-6-1802. The department shall monitor any changes in standardized test scores by students using laptop computers provided by the access to educational technology program. The commissioner shall compile an annual report on any such changes that occur to be sent to the members of the education committees and finance, ways, and means committees of the senate and house of representatives by July 1 of each year. The report shall also include information on the total cost of the program, feedback from teachers and students on the program's effectiveness, and comments on necessary improvements to the program.

49-6-1803. The commissioner of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this part. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

49-6-1804. The access to educational technology program shall begin with seventh grade students in the 2013-2014 academic year and expand to include eighth grade students in the 2014-2015 academic year.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.